

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

AS-01 /101 W

----- 013832

R 021549Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9385

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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DEPT PASS ALGIERS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, SS, AG MO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON SAHARA DISPUTE

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS CONTINUES TO LEAN
TOWARD ALGIERS IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE SAHARAN DISPUTE,
AND FOR FIRST TIME IMPLIES U.S. IS ON SIDE OF MOROCCO.

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END SUMMARY.

2. IN LIGHT COVERAGE, SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS MAINTAINS ITS TILT TOWARD ALGIERS AND THE POLISARIO FRONT. PRAVDA (FEB 1) CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM AN ALGERIAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SITUATION HAS A "DANGEROUS CHARACTER," AND THAT THE POLISARIO FRONT WILL CONTINUE ITS "STRUGGLE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA." ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, POLISARIO FORCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE INVOLVED IN BATTLES WITH MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN TROOPS.

3. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS FROM RABAT THAT HASSAN'S SPECIAL EMISSARY, FORMER PRIME MINISTER LAMRAMI, JOURNEYED TO WASHINGTON "BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION."

PRAVDA ADDS FROM WASHINGTON THAT LAMRANI MET WITH THE SECRETARY, AFTER WHICH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE U.S. "INTENDS TO EXTEND MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE" TO MOROCCO.

4. ELSEWHERE, IN ITS AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL WEEK, PRAVDA DEVOTES

ONLY ONE PARAGRAPH TO THE DISPUTE, BUT CITES PASSAGE FROM BOUTEFLIKE'S

MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM THAT THE SITUATION "IS BECOMING DANGEROUS FOR PEACE."

5. COMMENT. PRESS COVERAGE REMAINS EXTREMELY GUARDED, BUT LEANS TOWARD ALGIERS AND POLISARIO. THE REPORT ON LAMRANI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IS THE FIRST WE HAVE SEEN WHICH PLACES THE U.S. ON THE MOROCCAN SIDE OF THE DISPUTE. STOESEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALGIERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW01515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760039-0759
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760291/aaaadcnv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS ON SAHARA DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, SS, AG, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006